

88871

Site: Martha C. Rose
 ID# MDD980633069
 Break: 13.3
 Other:
 9/30/86



88871

SUPERFUND RECORDS

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Tues., Sept. 30, 1986

Private Aid In Cleaning PCB Waste

By Marjorie Mandel
 Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Clean Sites Inc. is helping to clean up a now-closed chemical plant in Holden, Mo., where up to 15 million pounds of toxic waste was abandoned.

The private, non-profit group was formed two years ago by environmental groups and the chemical industry to help speed cleanups at hazardous waste sites.

The plant, the Martha C. Rose Chemical Co., halted operations in Holden in February, and the company was sued recently for involuntary bankruptcy. Holden, a town of 2,200, is about 40 miles southeast of Kansas City.

Left at the plant were 12 million to 15 million pounds of cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. Officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimate that cleaning up will take two years and cost \$20 million.

The PCBs are in thousands of barrels, wooden crates and rusty tanks. A nearby creek and the city's wastewater treatment plant are contaminated with PCBs. Holden officials and the company are embroiled in suits and countersuits against each other.

PCBs were commonly used as insulators and coolants in transformers and other electrical equipment until their manufacture was banned by the federal government in 1979.

Joan B. Ebzery, a spokeswoman for Clean Sites in Washington, said about 650 industries, utilities and hospitals had sent PCBs to the plant.

"We've signed an agreement with nine of the potentially responsible parties," she said Monday. "We hope to allocate cleanup costs and oversee the cleanup."

Ebzery said the nine waste genera-

Site Of Chemical Plant



POST-DISPATCH MAP BY ROBERT BRADLEY

tors had given Clean Sites money to secure the plant. Drums of chemicals have been repacked and segregated so they no longer pose a fire threat. Several pits have been drained, and the liquid has been put in containers, she said.

Soil, creek sediment and sewage sludge has been sampled, and more than 100,000 company documents have been photocopied to help determine the source of the waste, Ebzery said. The plant buildings have been locked, a fence has been put up and a security guard has been posted, she said.

Holden Mayor Francis L. Brillhart called Clean Sites' involvement a positive step.

"Things are progressing well, but a cleanup won't happen overnight," he said.

David Tripp, regional counsel for the EPA in Kansas City, Kan., said the agency hoped to complete this week an administrative order for the first phase of the cleanup. The agency has been negotiating with a steering committee of waste generators, he said.

The order will cover security, sampling, a waste inventory and an allocation of cleanup costs, Tripp said. As soon as the order is completed, the EPA will begin negotiations on the actual cleanup, he said.

"Rose Chemical's consistent position has been that it is not financially capable of participating in the cleanup," Tripp said.

The Kansas City Star, Wednesday, October 8, 1986

EPA takes PCB items to Holden

By Barbara Musfeldt

The Star's energy/environment writer

Federal environmental officials have moved four truckloads of PCB-contaminated materials out of Kansas City to a former PCB processing plant in Holden, Mo.

The material, mechanical and office equipment, was moved from a lot at the American Steel Works Inc., 2459 Charlotte St., Tuesday afternoon, according to Walter Carolan, Jr., president of the both firms.

It was taken to the Martha C. Rose Chemicals Inc. plant site in Holden, where other contaminated material is being stored for eventual cleanup. The Rose plant processed polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) wastes until early summer, when company officials

said they no longer had enough money to stay in business.

The U.S. Environmental Official Protection Agency recently filed a complaint against Rose and American Steel officials, demanding they move the equipment or decontaminate it, said David Tripp, EPA's regional counsel. EPA tests had revealed some of the equipment stored on four flatbed trailers was contaminated with PCB.

"They failed to meet our deadline, so we moved it," Mr. Tripp said.

Although the material did not pose an "immediate" threat, EPA officials were concerned it would eventually leak and contaminate the area, he said.

The EPA is also searching the homes of some former Rose employees, looking for other con-

taminated equipment, Mr. Tripp added.

Mr. Carolan, president and chief operating officer of Rose and American Steel says the equipment had been cleaned to meet government standards and maintains that the EPA is picking on his company.

Mr. Carolan said the equipment was not used in the processing of PCB wastes, rather was just located in the same building where it was used in fabricating steel products.

"I'm not saying that Rose was lily-white clean," Mr. Carolan said. "But I think there are people in the EPA that have a vendetta against me personally and some of my employees."

Mr. Tripp would not respond to the charges.